

**Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee  
In Person Meeting  
6-8PM on April 2, 2024 at  
WSU Classroom (97 Oak Bay Rd)  
Meeting Minutes**

**Present:**

Neil Harrington, Tribal  
 Carol Hasse, *ex officio*, Port of Port Townsend  
 Judy Surber, City of Port Townsend  
 Janette Mestre, District 1  
 Brad Bebout, District 1  
 Jeff Taylor, District 2, NWS Rep  
 Brenda Johnson, District 2  
 Frank Handler, District 2 Alt  
 Sarah Fiskens, District 3, NWS Alt  
 Joanie Hendricks, District 3  
 Tim Cross, District 3 Alt  
 Betsy Carlson, Envir/Conserv  
 Bryan DeCaterina, Env/Conserv Alt  
 Emily Buckner, Marine Science  
 Christopher Kelley, Marine Science Alt  
 Gordon King, Commercial  
 Troy McKelvey, Recreation  
 Roy Clark, Recreation Alt

**Absent:**

Heidi Eisenhour, *ex officio*, BoCC  
 Timothy Behrenfeld, District 1 Alt

**Guest:**

Cynthia Harbison (DNR)

**Staff:**

Bob Simmons, WSU Staff

Topic	Update or Issue	Decisions/Follow-Up	Responsibility
CALL TO ORDER GUEST INTRODUCTIONS	Chair Gordon King called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Introductions were made.	A quorum was present.	All members – please send volunteer hours
AMENDMENTS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA  APPROVAL OF MINUTES		Gordon moved to approve the agenda. Motion seconded. Motion passed.  Neil moved to approve the March minutes. Seconded by Joannie. Motion passed.	
PUBLIC COMMENT			
GUEST SPEAKER Cynthia Harbinson (DNR)	<p><b>DNR Kelp and Eelgrass Health and Conservation Prioritization Plan</b>  <i>Max Shoalwater is co-leading this statewide plan with Cynthia but was not able to participate in the presentation.</i></p> <p>This plan was passed in the legislature &amp; signed into law in 2022, and continues to build on current efforts.</p> <p>DNR is tasked to identify, protect &amp; recover at least 10,000 acres of Kelp &amp; Eelgrass habitat, focusing on native Kelp &amp; Eelgrass by 2040.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Identify stressors &amp; actions to mitigate stressors</li> <li>o Monitor distribution &amp; trends</li> </ul> <p>2022: Developed their engagement plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Involve tribal partners, sister federal agencies, organizations &amp; the public</li> </ul> <p>2023: Implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Convened expert working group</li> <li>o Public workshops</li> <li>o Early tribal review prior to public comment</li> </ul>		

	<p>Framework outline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How will 10,000 acres be identified</li> <li>○ Why protect kelp and eelgrass?</li> <li>○ What are the values around these habitats?</li> <li>○ What habitats can we best protect or recover?</li> <li>○ This will help think about what's feasible</li> <li>○ How can be successful?</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How will we protect or recover habitats?</li> <li>○ Questions 2 &amp; 3 are part of the next phase of the work.</li> <li>○ Last year was mainly about first question</li> </ul> <p>What does valuable mean?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ecological</li> <li>○ -water quality</li> <li>○ Food webs</li> <li>○ Economic</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://Social/CulturalDnr.wa.gov/kelp-and-eelgrass-plan">Social/CulturalDnr.wa.gov/kelp-and-eelgrass-plan</a></p> <p><b>Step 1</b></p> <p>Statewide high value area identification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Shared values</li> <li>○ High value areas</li> <li>○ Revisions</li> </ul> <p>High Value Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mapped areas of ecological, economic &amp; cultural value</li> <li>○ Identified gaps in knowledge and need for deeper local context</li> <li>○ Difficult to think statewide about site specific areas</li> <li>○ Utilize sub-basin kind of process</li> </ul> <p><b>Step 2</b></p> <p>Second phase</p> <p>Sub basin scale priority area identification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Local data</li> <li>○ Shared actions</li> <li>○ Priority areas</li> <li>○ Repeat</li> </ul> <p>Implementation goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Support ongoing work by DNR &amp; partners</li> <li>○ Support new work in high value areas</li> <li>○ Identify 10,000 acres of DNR managed lands for lead conservation and recovery actions</li> <li>○ Three pilot sub-basins to start with this year.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca</li> <li>○ South Puget Sound</li> <li>○ Grays Harbor</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Proactively leverage opportunities for conservation &amp; recovery as they arise</li> </ul> <p>Desired outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kelp &amp; eelgrass protection zone that</li> <li>○ Strong eco value</li> <li>○ Reflects tribally identified values and needs with full tribal support</li> <li>○ Partner &amp; public buy in</li> <li>○ State owned aquatic lands available for a withdrawal order</li> </ul> <p>Stewardship plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Site specific.</li> <li>○ Need a key partner.</li> </ul> <p><i>Sarah: What is the criteria for the withdrawal order?</i></p>		
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	<p>Cynthia (CH): An area that is pulled from any future leasing activities. Can't do one in an area that's already leased.</p> <p><i>Gordon: What are stressors in the area? What does that mean?</i></p> <p>CH: When we have a site, we need an understanding of what the stressors are and if there are ones we can influence. That would help us drive actions for the Stewardship plan. We're trying to decrease the stressors.</p> <p><i>Carol Haase: How many acres are in all of those sub-basins added together? How many acres in the Eastern Straits? How locked in are you to only doing 10K acres?</i></p> <p>CH: I think we will easily find the 10,000 acres. We are hoping to do more than that. There are about 2 million acres of DNR aquatic lands of DNY aquatic lands.</p> <p><i>Gordon: I think in Puget Sound &amp; Hood canal there are 125K +/- acres of aquatic lands, but that's everything.</i></p> <p>CH: Aquatic lands are also freshwater too. Almost all of Puget Sound is still in aquatic lands.</p> <p><i>Neil: MRC has been really involved in Eel grass protection for years, there may be a synthesis here. It's a high stress area, but the community has chosen &amp; implemented a plan to protect eelgrass here. Not sure who owns the DNR aquatic lands in Port Townsend.</i></p> <p>CH: We want to take advantage of work that's been done. We want to do enough that we can succeed in our goals.</p> <p><i>Judy Surber: City of PT When it came to identifying public vs private shoals on our shorelines, we were told by DNR that it was really difficult to figure out. There is no map of private vs public. It's very complicated.</i></p> <p>CH: Grays Harbor is similar to PT, we may need to pay for a survey.</p> <p><i>Q: What is a protection zone and how is that affected by crabbing, commercial &amp; recreational fishing?</i></p> <p>CH: Tribal treaty rights supersede anything that DNR want to do. We want to work with our partners to identify what kinds of activities do we want to allow or not. Fishing and recreation aren't incompatible with eelgrass health. No prescribed ideas yet on what actions to take.</p> <p><i>Public:(Nam) Would the submerged pipeline require a DNR lease?</i></p> <p>CH: Yes. Existing infrastructure would either do a cut-out or grandfathered in. Uncertain as to how future pieces will look like, but the DNR shouldn't make it difficult.</p> <p>We will be considering additional stewardship measures for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Cable lines</li> <li>o Recreational &amp; mooring buoys.</li> <li>o Private buoys (no fee) &amp; docks</li> </ul> <p><i>Chris Kelly: Why are Kelp &amp; eelgrass being combined? Kelp areas are very different that Eelgrass areas.</i></p> <p>CH: In crafting the legislation, the habitat was thought of as a mosaic. Many species use both of those habitats. We're not going to separate the areas out (kelp vs eelgrass).</p> <p>Public: Nam: They are functionally similar habitats.</p>		
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	<p><i>Carol Haase: Could there be an aquatic land trust? It would raise awareness and increase protected habitat, and could have some tax benefit. It seems like it will be important to expand the 10,000 acres to whole coast line.</i></p> <p>CH: Our heart is also in conservation easements.</p> <p><i>Q: Is the 10,000 acres part of existing documented areas? Or are you looking at potential or former or known historical beds that don't exist anymore?</i></p> <p>CH: We are looking at current individual habitats. Suitable habitats are what we'll be counting for the 10,000 acres. We need to develop a monitoring plan for these areas so we'll need to be tracking what's going on.</p> <p><i>Judy Surber: The City has sewer outfall right into a high value sub-basin. We will need a new outfall at that location. How/when are you integrating that into your Shoreline Master Plans?</i></p> <p>CH: We're interested to see where DNR can support that work. We'd love to start talking with the City's team on how we can support that work. We're looking carefully into the area East of Protection Island to Fort Worden (showed map).</p> <p><i>Bob Simmons: What would a protection zone look like crossing different ownerships? (State, lease, private)</i></p> <p>CH: Areas with a lot of private ownership are complicated. DNR feels confident there are areas with fewer private owners and in that case, they would do a cutout around those private tidelands. It's something we need to be thinking about as far as feasibility.</p> <p><i>Brenda Johnson: The Whidbey Island MRC has designated Admiralty Inlet between PT &amp; Whidbey as a stewardship area. There are major signs pointing out the major kelp beds. What is our aim in perpetuity for these aquatic lands? Are we expecting that there could be a gradation of protections? Cutouts? Different layers of easements?</i></p> <p>CH: The Aquatic Preserve program is really strong. It's centered around communities, it has a lot of public 'buy-in', there is an extensive public process. The community support is important and exploring other tools could be on the table. They're viewing it as something they can do as DNR.</p> <p><i>Bryan DeCaterina: What is the timeline for this?</i></p> <p>CH: In the Eastern Strait, we're hoping to have priority areas identified by late Summer/early Fall. Our dream is to move forward, identify specific areas and work on stewardship plants and implementation. That's what we're hoping for this year...imagining 2-3 years for the development phase.</p> <p><i>Judy: When you say partners, should we automatically assume one of the partners to be the inland of jurisdiction? The City of Port Townsend, Jefferson County? The City is working now with all of the appropriate agencies on the Sewer outfall and some important conversations need to happen soon with this schedule.</i></p> <p>CH: We want to move as fast as makes sense. We want this to be successful. We don't want to move faster than</p> <p><i>JS: We have to meet no net loss. So if we're meeting no net loss, then why not allow us to have a lease for any particular use in these areas.</i></p> <p>Scheduled time was up at that point.</p>		
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<p>Port of PT UPDATES Commissioner Carol Hasse</p>	<p><b>Stormwater Proposal cost - \$5.7 million</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ They were awarded \$3 million from the state, combined with \$2 million Federal money received last Fall and \$600K from IVP</li> <li>○ The Port is set to proceed</li> </ul> <p>Timetable must be revised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Final design completed and the contract must be awarded by the end of the year or they won't receive the \$3 million.</li> <li>○ Will include future boatyard expansion toward Sims Way and the towards the bluff, Larry Scott Trail. NE &amp; SW</li> <li>○ Idea is to complete the "flower pot" bio swale vision with a centralized key point. So they can test everything.</li> <li>○ That will likely include:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Media infiltration</li> <li>○ Sedimentation</li> <li>○ Bioswale</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>That is the main project right now.</p> <p><b>Neptune's Kiss at Wooden Boat Festival</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Weatherproof handouts with info on MRC</li> <li>○ Something that could go on the water</li> </ul> <p><b>Gardener Ramp</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ramp will be there year-round</li> <li>○ The float is seasonal</li> <li>○ Port is permitted to build in the next fish window.</li> <li>○ July 15, 2024 – Feb 14, 2025</li> </ul> <p><b>Puget Sound Seabird Survey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Monitoring for seabirds all the way to Neah Bay,</li> <li>○ Carol will be at Diamond Point on Saturday, 4/06. If the sign is still there, MRC can have it.</li> </ul> <p><b>Sea Level Rise Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Is still happening with Survey &amp; Engineering.</li> <li>○ Design ongoing</li> </ul> <p><b>Pt Hudson's Official Grand Opening</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wed, 4/24, 1:00 – 3:00 pm</li> <li>○ PS Express whale watching boat, Saratoga, will pick up legislators &amp; other dignitaries who provided funding for the jetty.</li> <li>○ Leave Boat Haven, go out towards Pt Wilson and come back to Pt Hudson</li> <li>○ He sail loft crew is making a 200 ft long spinnaker ribbon to go across the Jetty.</li> <li>○ Everyone is welcome</li> <li>○ Danny Mulholland</li> <li>○ At the Doc's Marina area.</li> </ul> <p>This is additional funding for our stormwater treatment for entire boatyard. Including expansions they hope to do.</p>		
<p>BoCC UPDATES</p>	<p>Commissioner Eisenhower not present</p>		
<p>RECENT MEETING REPORTS AND ISSUE UPDATES</p>	<p><b>NWSC Meeting</b> (Jeff)</p> <p><b>NW Straits Foundation Event</b> (Sarah)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ May 5, 11:30 – 3:00 pm</li> <li>○ Edmond Yacht Club</li> <li>○ She will have more information next month</li> </ul> <p>Cecelia Gobin is willing to come present at an MRC meeting. She is a Tulalip Tribal member and gave a great talk at the joint meeting. Some of the comments were that they wished she could have talked longer.</p>		

	<p><b>Puget Sound Day on the Hill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ May 13 -16</li> <li>○ Need volunteers</li> </ul> <p><b>NW Annual Conference (Neil)</b> Neil is on the conference planning committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Nov 15 &amp; 16</li> <li>○ Everett Delta Hotel</li> <li>○ NW Straits can help with travel expenses</li> <li>○ Keynote speaker is Ellen Kelce, author of the book <i>Hope Matters</i></li> <li>○ Her book recommends that we should concentrate on our environmental success stories and not wallow in despair. Could be a theme at the conference--we can take positive action and have positive results.</li> <li>○ If anyone has anything they want to talk about at the conference contact Neil.</li> <li>○ Another topic besides the keynote is Interactions between MRCs and their local governments.</li> <li>○ Maybe Cecelia should speak at the conference?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sarah a said great idea.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<p>ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES</p>	<p><b>MRC Hiring Subcommittee (Bob Simmons)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There are sixteen applicants</li> <li>○ Judy, Sarah, Gordon &amp; himself all have packets of to review</li> <li>○ Bob will send out a ranking form, then they will be winnowed down.</li> <li>○ Hope to meet next Wed or Thurs to pare down to 5 or less and then interview them.</li> <li>○ Goal is to have interviews done by end of April</li> </ul> <p><b>Local Youth Representative Discussion - Emily</b> They have decided to have a high school Junior &amp; Senior. High schoolers are the right group since they are building college resumes and looking to get experience. Once they graduate they are eligible for MRC positions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Senior is the voting position</li> <li>○ Junior (alternate) moves into the voting position the following year</li> <li>○ Emily created a flyer for the PT Science Night on 3/26 to hand out.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The kids were too young at the event—elementary grades.</li> <li>○ A high school Robotics group was present. She gave them a flyer.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ They have a flyer to start posting.</li> <li>○ Need ideas for advertising.</li> </ul> <p>Include Ocean, Chimaquam, Quilcene and Homeschoolers. Sarah offered to take flyers to Quilcene.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Emily can connect with Tim B. and he can give specific teacher recommendations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Time frame:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Get the word out soon so folks can apply and get it finalized during the summer.</li> <li>○ September 2024 start date.</li> </ul> <p><i>Gordon: I don't remember a vote happening at the last meeting in regards to the structure.</i></p>		

	<p><i>Gordon: Should I contact the county and we should have this written up for the next meeting. The Senior would be the voting member, and the Junior would be the alternate.</i></p> <p><i>Joannie: Would this be added to the by-laws?</i></p> <p><i>Gordon: I'm not sure. It's a new position. If we're determining it will be a certain structure than I assume we may need to.</i></p> <p><i>Bob Simmons: I don't think we should lock ourselves into that.</i></p> <p><i>Gordon: We need to move forward.</i></p> <p><i>Emily: Can we advertise for high school students and at the same time decide how this needs to be written up?</i></p> <p><i>Neil: I should see if this is at the county level or if it's taken care of in our bylaws and if we have enough freedom in those by-laws to implement this.</i></p> <p><i>Emily: The flyer says to contact the Jefferson County MRC and receive application materials. That is the next step: determining the application materials.</i></p> <p><i>Gordon: We have decided it's a Youth position. I'll read the bylaws and see what the age is and maybe the County needs more input.</i></p> <p><i>Neil: I believe the ages are 15-21.</i></p> <p>Emily will email everyone the flyer and will work on the application materials.</p>		
<p>CURRENT &amp; UPCOMING PROJECTS</p>	<p><b>Forage Fish Monitoring</b> (Dabob-Sarah) Dabob was sampled</p> <p><b>Education and Outreach</b> (Joanie)</p> <p><b>DIGGING FOR DINNER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ April 27<sup>th</sup> 11:30 am – 4 pm</li> <li>○ Quilcene Linger Longer WVFW Beach</li> <li>○ We need to put flyers around town.</li> <li>○ Bob S: we need to put together a PR paragraph as well as a link to Eventbrite to sign up for the event. And get the poster in a PDF format.</li> <li>○ The poster has the link for sign up and the web address on it.</li> </ul> <p><i>Question: When people register, where does that go?</i></p> <p><i>Bob S: Registration is through Eventbrite. WSU has an account, and they receive a list of registrants. Then they can follow up via email. Eventbrite will also count registrants.</i></p> <p><i>Carol H: Can we put it on the Port website?</i></p> <p>Bob S: Yes.</p> <p><i>Joannie: I am for any MRC members who wants help out with it.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Volunteers arrive earlier than event to help set up and direct parking. The WVFW Beach is a very small parking lot, so directing will be needed.</li> </ul> <p><i>Sarah: I can talk with the Harbor Master down there, we may be able to park at the Marina too.</i></p>	<p>Neil motioned to approve the draft of the DEI consultant contract. Joanie seconded the motion.</p>	

	<p><b>SEA GRANT, MRC &amp; MARINE SCIENCE CENTER STAGE FOR WOODEN BOAT FESTIVAL</b> – Betsy/Joannie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Committee met and narrowed down presentation topics</li> <li>○ Secure speakers by May 31<sup>st</sup></li> <li>○ Brad secured Colin Ingus to talk about his robotic boat.</li> <li>○ We’ve run the list by Barb at the WBF and she is very excited. We are asking WBF to come up with a short &amp; catchy name (at least to start) for this stage.</li> <li>○ MRC will stall have a table/presence there.</li> </ul> <p><b>Olympia Oysters</b> - Neil</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sending out survey to entire MRC</li> <li>○ April 15<sup>th</sup> - Gordon will bring up some shellfish to enhance lagoons with some shell.</li> <li>○ Gordon is trying to get 120 barrels of oysters.</li> <li>○ Neil went to the spit, things were good, but he noticed a little mortality yesterday (4/01). There was a cold snap during some -2 tides.</li> <li>○ Nice areas in lagoons to enhance</li> </ul> <p><b>POWER LINES SURVEY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup></li> <li>○ We need volunteers</li> </ul> <p><b>BEACH WALK ON BROAD SPIT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ June 21<sup>st</sup></li> <li>○ To see what Olympia oysters are doing out there.</li> </ul> <p>We have not been able to put out an RFP for an oyster barge with Monica being gone.</p> <p><i>Bob S: We have funding that needs to be spent by the end of June. But we have other Federal funding.</i></p> <p><b>Eelgrass Buoys</b> – Gordon Does anyone want to help? Saturday &amp; Sunday (4/06-07) at 8:30</p> <p><b>Kelp</b> – Emily</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Good subcommittee meeting earlier last week</li> <li>○ This summer we hope to have four kayak surveys at North Beach</li> <li>○ September survey is a possibility</li> <li>○ Monitor beds on <u>both</u> sides of sewer outflow. Typically it has only been done on the east side.</li> <li>○ Hoping to conduct drone surveys in the same time frame.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tim B will track down drones.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ The goal is to better understand the relationships with other entities doing research at North Beach and how we can add value to body of work in coming years.</li> <li>○ Save the date for the surveys and volunteer lists</li> </ul> <p><i>Chris Kelly: Tim has a contact for drone that may offer it for free.</i></p> <p><i>Bryan DeCatarina: We have a drone we can use.</i></p> <p><i>Public: UW is looking for volunteer beach watchers and have reached out to MRC.</i></p> <p><b>Rain Gardens</b> Bob &amp; Janette</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Thank you to Troy for bringing cement and signs for Rain Gardens</li> <li>○ We’ve hired our Master Gardener Coordinator to be full time (up from part time) to work spring and summer to help with the Rain Garden mentor program.</li> </ul>		
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	<p><i>Troy: Sequim Puget Sound Anglers is asking for volunteers this month at the Dungeness hatchery to help sort thru &amp; clean pots.</i></p> <p><i>Q: We've identified 9000 pots already. Why do we want to find more pots?</i></p> <p><i>Chris: We want to get an inventory of the problem here in Jefferson County and that's the only way we'll get an idea of how many pots are down there is with a site scan. Want to have a survey so we have a good map. Then divers can come in and continue to remove pots.</i></p>		
PUBLIC COMMENT	No public comment.		
MRC ROUND TABLE/ ANNOUNCEMENTS	<p><b>Call For Future Agenda Topics/Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Brenda: Invite Jason Morgan to come talk to us.</li> <li>○ Sarah: We may have a speaker for next month, she has to check. She can't say yet.</li> <li>○ Betsy: She talked with Tammy Perconi from Coastal MRC &amp; Conservation Futures program and she is willing to talk with us.</li> <li>○ Emily: Since Fish &amp; Wildlife people aren't here currently. Is there a way to combine DFW with Marine Science Stage?</li> </ul>		
ADJOURNMENT	Meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM. Next meeting will be May	Gordon moved to adjourn, seconded by Joannie... Motion passed.	